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**Community-based Chemotherapy and Biotherapy**

COURSE SYLLABUS

2019

Course Author: Donalda MacDonald

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**Course Offering:** de Souza Institute

**Course Format:** eLearning

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**Registration:** Required

## A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This online course provides an overview of chemotherapy and biotherapy for health care professionals who work in the community setting. The content covers classifications and agents, routes of administration, adverse effects, administration complications, and safe handling practice standards, and highlights their implication for community care.

Although participants can complete the various components of the course at their own pace, the course **must be completed in its entirety before the Course Completion Date which is 5 weeks from your enrollment date** (this date can be found on the course information page in the *My Account*).

<b>Domain of Practice</b>	Treatment and Delivery of Evidence Based Care
<b>Learning Hours</b>	10 hours
<b>de Souza Credit</b>	0.25 credits

## B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, the learner will be able to:

- Describe the role of the chemotherapy and biotherapy in cancer care
- Identify commonly used chemotherapy and biotherapy agents, indications, mechanism of action administration recommendations, and side effects.
- Describe the difference between extravasation from an irritation and flare reaction
- Explain how to assess extravasation and take appropriate action
- Describe safe handling issues for chemotherapy and biotherapy, including safe administration practices, management of bodily wastes and spill management.

### C. MODE OF LEARNING

The main mechanism(s) to facilitate learning in this course will entail eLearning.

#### ***eLearning***

eLearning, offered through the de Souza eLearning centre, will cover the following activities: the self-directed learning, interactive activities, reading, reflection, and successful completion of knowledge checks and quizzes. The course timetable in Section H of the course syllabus outlines weekly expectations for learners.

- Learning and application: Sections and modules reflects the latest knowledge in chemotherapy and biotherapy administration, adverse effects, immediate complications, and safe handling. The content is up to date and the learning format is interactive. Learning activities entail four sections.
- Readings are intended to supplement and enhance the eLearning content surrounding key topic areas by providing additional information/evidence from the literature.
- Knowledge checks and quizzes are included in the course to help learners consolidate their learning and assess their knowledge retention.
- Technical support will be provided throughout the course.

### D. MODES OF EVALUATION

As part of the evaluation process, learners are required to complete the following:

- A baseline evaluation: this survey assesses the knowledge, attitude, confidence, and learning methods before the online course.
- eLearning sections/modules: It is expected that learners complete the modules by the course end date.
- Case studies: There are two case studies that must be completed. Learners will have multiple opportunities to repeat the case study questions until they receive a 100% grade.
- Final exam: Learners must write the final exam by the course end date. The exam is open-book with 30 multiple choice questions. Learners will be given 30 minutes to write the exam independently. Learners must obtain a minimum of 70% on the final exam to pass the course.
- Post evaluation: At the end of the course, learners will be required to complete a post course evaluation. This will be facilitated electronically through eLearning.

When you have successfully met all the above requirements, you will receive an email containing instructions on how to download your certificate of completion, and will receive credit towards obtaining your de Souza designation.

## E. COMPETENCIES

A number of competencies will be evident within each module. For example, the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology - Competencies associated with cancer chemotherapy nursing practice:

- Comprehensive health assessment
- Supportive and therapeutic relationships
- Management of cancer symptoms and treatment side effects
- Teaching and coaching
- Facilitating continuity of care/ navigating the system
- Decision-making and advocacy
- Professional practice and leadership

To review the competencies, please visit the CANO/ACIO website.

CANO/ACIO National Standards for Cancer Chemotherapy Nursing Link:

<http://www.cano-acio.ca/page/NSCA>

## F. EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNERS

To be successful in completing this course, learners are encouraged to set aside 1-2 hours each week to complete each section as learning is primarily self-directed. The total learning hours for this course is **10** hours.

Sections and modules are to be completed sequentially; learners can choose to go ahead and complete learning activities in multiple sections and modules at once.

## G. FACILITATOR AVAILABILITY

This course is self-paced and, therefore, not facilitator led. For technical support in using the de Souza eLearning centre or questions regarding course content, please contact:

[support@desouzainstitute.com](mailto:support@desouzainstitute.com).

## H. COURSE TIMELINE

The following sections/modules are recommended to be completed in sequential order according to numerical identifier.

Section/ Module	Topic	Post Date	Date to complete
	eLearning Center Orientation (Optional)	Within first week of the course.	By the end of the first week.
<b>Baseline Survey</b>		Within first week of the course.	By the end of the first week.
<b>Section 1</b>	Introduction to Chemotherapy and Biotherapy	Within first week of the course.	By the end of the first week.
<b>Section 2</b>	Administration	Within first week of the course.	By the end of the first week.
<b>Section 3 Module 1 Module 2</b>	Adverse Effects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extravasation</li> <li>• Symptom management (module 2a-2b: Nausea and Vomiting, Fatigue)</li> </ul>	Within second week of the course.	By the end of the second week.
<b>Section 3 Module 2-continued</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adverse Effects</li> <li>• Symptom management (module 2c-2f: Diarrhea, Skin Reaction, Neutropenia, Peripheral Neuropathy)</li> <li>• Case study</li> </ul>	Within third week of the course.	By the end of the third week.
<b>Section 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of Exposure and Safe Handling</li> <li>• Case study</li> </ul>	Within fourth week of the course.	By the end of the fourth week.
<b>Final Exam</b>	Covers all topic areas	Within five week of the course	By the end of the fifth week.
<b>Final Evaluation</b>			By the end of the fifth week.

## I. AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

**Donalda MacDonald** has been an oncology nurse for 40 years working in both inpatient and outpatient units. For 25 years she has been a primary nurse in lung and GI oncology as well as working in the chemotherapy suite. For the last 10 years of her clinical career, she has been the solo instructor for the Sinai C.A.R.E. Cancer Care education series that she and her chemo colleagues developed targeting nurses new to oncology. Donalda has served on the board of directors for the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology for 7 years, 5 of which she was the treasurer. She has done item writing and exam review for the CNA Oncology Certification Exam and continues to be a mentor for nurses preparing for the exam. In 2008, Donalda was nominated by her oncology peers and was one of 100 nurses from across Canada to receive the CNA Centennial Award honoring her work in education of novice oncology nurses.

## Additional Information Regarding Learning At de Souza Institute

## J. VIRTUAL LIBRARY

The de Souza Institute has a virtual library that can be accessed to those registered in this course or any other de Souza Institute continuing education program. This resource enables learners to access over 1500 e-Journals, 200 e-books and 8 on-line databases such as CINHALL or Ovid-Medline. The virtual library covers the required reading materials of this course. The virtual library can be accessed 24 hours a day at any location that has internet access using a login and password.

## K. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

### eLearning Centre Orientation

The eLearning Centre Orientation course is free of charge. This course is designed to introduce the online learning and help learners understand how to navigate through the de Souza Institute eLearning centre and courses.

### de Souza Support

For any questions about the content of a course, or assistance accessing or navigating the eLearning Centre, please contact [support@desouzainstitute.com](mailto:support@desouzainstitute.com).

## L. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Click the links below to read de Souza Institute's Academic Honesty and Copyright; and cancellation, incomplete and no show policies.

[Academic Honesty and Copyright Policy](#)

[Cancellations, Incomplete and No Show Policy](#)

A 50% refund will be provided to learners who drop the course within its first week (5 business days) of running. Individuals who drop the course after the 1<sup>st</sup> week will not receive a refund and will receive a failing mark in My Account.

Course content and resources provided in this course are based on best practice guidelines from provincial and national bodies. Local protocols and policies may differ and learners should contact their own healthcare organizations.